

In the Specification:

Please replace Paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] With reference again to Fig. 2, RF power 18 is applied to an AOM 10 only when a ~~working~~ working laser pulse is demanded at random time intervals, in this case at random integral multiples of the laser pulse interval, and, therefore, results in random variable thermal loading on the AOM 10. Thermal loading on AOM 10 causes geometric distortion and temperature gradients in the AOM 10, which cause gradients in its refractive index. These consequences of thermal loading will distort a laser beam passing through the AOM 10, resulting in deteriorated laser beam quality and instability in the laser beam path or poor beam positioning accuracy. These distortions could be corrected to some degree if they could be kept constant. However, when the system laser pulses are demanded randomly, such as in laser link processing, these distortions will have the same random nature and cannot be corrected practically.

Please replace Paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] FIGS. ~~6A-6D~~ 6A-6C are corresponding timing and beam position graphs that demonstrate how working laser outputs may be randomly demanded for an exemplary link processing application.

Application No. 10/611,798
Prelim. Amdmt. dated December 2, 2003

In the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings, which includes FIGS. 6A, 6B, and 6C, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 6A, 6B, and 6C. The hand-drawn reference numerals in previous FIG. 6A have been formalized.

Attachments: One replacement sheet

One annotated sheet showing changes